

Traditional English Carol

THE FIRST NOWELL *Irregular with Refrain*
Traditional English Melody

1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that same star Three
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where
 in the east, be - yond them far, And to the
 wise men came from coun - try far; To seek for a
 Beth - le - hem it took its rest, And there it
 rev - erent - ly up - on their knee, And of - fered

they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave great light, And so it con -
 king was their in - tent, And to fol - low the
 did both stop and stay, Right o - ver the
 there, in his pres - ence, Their gold and

REFRAIN
 night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh and frank - in - cense.

ell, born in a man - ger, Em - man - u - el.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 2 Joy-ful, all you saints a-rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;

Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.

Refrain

We will fol-low the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the
 dew-drops of mer-cy are bright, Shine all a-round us by
 day and by night, Je-sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by George Elderkin utilizes a repeated ascription, "Jesus, the light of the world," and a refrain to create a rousing carol of praise.

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 George D. Elderkin
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

As with Gladness Those of Old

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William C. Dix, 1861; alt.

Matt. 2:1-12

1 As with glad-ness those of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man-ger bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;

As with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
There to bend the knee be - fore One whom heaven and earth a - dore;
So may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And when mor - tal things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last

So, true Morn - ing Star, may we ev - er - more your splen - dor see.
So may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo - ry hide.

After reading the Epiphany gospel, William C. Dix penned this hymn. Dix, the manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted hymnwriter. Among his many fine contributions is "What Child Is This."

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7.7.
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861